

Workforce Investment Act Funds Hundreds of Jobs Programs Throughout New York State

Washington, DC - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) last week sent a letter to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee in support of President Obama's funding request for the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), which provides critical funding for job training, job search and job placement programs throughout New York. Hinchey was joined by 56 other House members who are requesting that the Committee meet President Obama's recommended funding levels in their Fiscal Year 2012 authorization bill.

"Since 1998, the Workforce Investment Act has funded job training, job search and job placement programs throughout the United States," said Hinchey. "Tens of thousands of New Yorkers are currently employed because of this program. Job centers funded through WIA can be found throughout the Congressional District I represent and they are helping people find work in this tough economy. Job Corps, YouthBuild and summer jobs programs are also funded through WIA, helping countless young people in our part of New York gain valuable job skills and long-term employment. There is no doubt that we need to reduce our deficit, but with over 14 million Americans out of work, we can't do it by cutting job programs. The Workforce Investment Act should be funded at the level President Obama requested."

Hinchey voted to establish the Workforce Investment Act in 1998. Since that time, he has worked to support the program. Job training and placement centers funded through this critical legislation can be found throughout the Congressional District Hinchey represents. As a member of the Job Corps Caucus, Hinchey has also worked to protect funding for the Job Corps program, which has facilities in Sullivan County. The congressman has also been a long-term supporter of the YouthBuild program, which enables young people to achieve their dreams by helping them secure High School Diplomas or GEDs while they learn critical occupational skills that lead to gainful employment. Hinchey recently announced that the City of Poughkeepsie would benefit from a \$1.1 million YouthBuild contract funded through last year's appropriations.

The letter was signed by Reps. Karen R. Bass, Shelley Berkley, Earl Blumenauer, Robert A. Brady, Lois Capps, André Carson, Judy Chu, David N. Cicilline, Hansen Clarke, Steve Cohen, Gerald E. Connolly, John Conyers, Joe Courtney, Peter DeFazio, John D. Dingell, Bob Filner, Barney Frank, Al Green, Raul M. Grijalva, Alcee L. Hastings, Mazie Hirono, Rush Holt, Eddie

Bernice Johnson, Hank Johnson, Dale E. Kildee, Dennis J. Kucinich, Jim Langevin, Rick Larsen, Sander Levin, Dan Lipinski, Dave Loebsack, Stephen F. Lynch, Carolyn B. Maloney, Doris O. Matsui, Carolyn McCarthy, James P. McGovern, Jerry McNerney, Gwen S. Moore, Jerrold Nadler, Gary C. Peters, Pedro R. Pierluisi, Chellie Pingree, Silvestre Reyes, Laura Richardson, Mike Ross, C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger, Jan Schakowsky, Albio Sires, Pete Stark, Betty Sutton, John F. Tierney, Chris Van Hollen, Peter Welch, Lynn Woolsey, David Wu, and John Yarmuth. The full text of the [letter](#) follows:

May 20, 2011

The Honorable Denny Rehberg The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairman Ranking Member
Labor, Health and Human Services Labor, Health and Human Services
and Education Committee and Education Committee
2358 Rayburn Office Building 1016 Longworth Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rehberg and Ranking Member DeLauro:

The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) provides critical funding for training and employment services across our nation and has effectively helped Americans find work since its inception in 1998. We respectfully support the President's recommended funding levels of \$5,335,335,000 for the FY 2012.

The Workforce Investment Act provides formula grant funding for adults, dislocated workers and youth to states based on unemployment rate and labor force size. The funds are effectively administered by local Workforce Investment Boards, which consist of local businesses owners and community leaders. These funds support regional workforce development centers across the nation that help Americans find meaningful employment in a changing economy. One-stop workforce centers offer a wide variety of services from computer access to more in-depth career counseling and vocational training. WIA also provides formula grant funding for a variety of youth programs that offer tutoring, summer employment opportunities, internships and vocational skills training.

WIA funding directly supports a variety of popular programs such as Youthbuild, Job Corps and the Green Jobs Innovation Fund. These cost-effective programs are proven to help fill specific job-training needs in local communities. Job Corps provides valuable academic and vocational training to high-risk youth in a safe residential setting and Youthbuild offers young people hands-on training in the housing and construction trades. The Green Jobs Innovation Fund has proven to be so effective that the Department of Labor seeks to expand the Fund, from \$40 million in FY 2010 to \$60 million for FY 2012. This investment will enable the Department to continue its efforts to provide workers with the skills necessary to compete in a green energy economy.

With well over 14 million Americans currently unemployed in this country, we must continue to strategically invest in our workforce development programs that are helping to rebuild our fragile economy. That is why we respectfully request that the Workforce Investment Act receive \$5,335,335,000 in FY2012. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Congressman Maurice Hinchey